

## CLAIMS

1. An information processor comprising:  
a first judging means for judging whether a first content has been checked out;  
a second judging means for judging whether a second content has been checked out; and  
means for combining the first and second contents together when it is determined by the first and second judging means that neither the first nor second content has been checked out.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a third judging means for judging whether a maximum number of possible checkouts for the first content is equal to that for the second content, and wherein the combining means combines the first and second contents together when it is determined by the third judging means that the maximum number of possible checkouts is equal to that for the second content.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for judging whether a playback time limit or number of times of playback is set for the first and second contents, and wherein the combining means combines the first and second contents when no limit is set for both the first and second contents.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for generating a name for combined contents based on the names of the first and second

contents.

5. An information processing method in which first and second contents are combined together, the method comprising:

a first judging step of judging whether a first content has been checked out; and

a second judging step of judging whether a second content has been checked out; and

a content combining step of combining the first and second contents together when it is determined that neither the first nor second content has been checked out.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising a third judging step of judging whether the maximum number of possible checkouts for the first content is equal to that for the second content; and wherein the first and second contents are combined together at the content combining step when it is determined that the maximum number of possible checkouts for the first content is equal to that for the second content.

7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising a playback limit judging step of judging whether a playback time limit or limit of times of playback is set for the first and second contents, and wherein the first and second contents are combined together at the content combining step when it is determined that no playback time limit or limit of times of playback is set for both the first and second contents.

8. A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable

program, the program stored in the medium comprising:

a first judging step of judging whether a first content has been checked out; and

a second judging step at which is it judged whether a second content has been checked out; and

a content combining step of combining the first and second contents together when it is determined that neither the first nor second content has been checked out.

9. The medium according to claim 8, the program further comprising a third judging step of judging whether a maximum number of possible checkouts for the first content is equal to that for the second content, and wherein the first and second contents are combined together at the content combining step when it is determined that the maximum number of possible checkouts for the first content is equal to that for the second content.

10. The medium according to claim 8, the program further comprising a playback limit judging step of judging whether a playback time limit or limit of times of playback is set for the first and second contents, and wherein the first and second contents are combined together at the content combining step when it is determined that no playback time limit or limit of times of playback is set for both the first and second contents.

11. The medium according to claim 8, the program further comprising a step of generating a name for the combined contents based on the names of the first and second contents.

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12. An information processor comprising:
  - means for judging whether a content has been checked out; and
  - means for dividing the content when it is determined that the content has not been checked out.
13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for judging whether a playback limit is set for a content, and wherein the content dividing means divides the content when no playback limit is set for the content.
14. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for generating names for the two contents, respectively, generated by the division based on the name of their original content.
15. An information processing method comprising invention, steps of:
  - judging whether a content has been checked out; and
  - dividing the content when it is determined that the content has not been checked out.
16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of judging whether a playback limit is set for the content, and wherein the content is divided when it is determined that no playback limit is set for the content.
17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of generating names for the two contents generated by the division based on their original content.
18. A program storage means having stored therein a computer-readable program, the program including steps of:

judging whether a content has been checked out; and

dividing the content when it is determined that the content has not been checked out.

19. The medium according to claim 18, the program further comprising a step of judging whether a playback limit is set for the content, and wherein the content is divided when it is determined that no playback limit is set for the content.

20. The medium according to claim 18, the program further comprising a step of generating names for the two contents generated by the division based on their original content.

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